

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

INDIANAPOLIS, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1904.

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## Indianapolis Somewhat Behind Its Needs In the Matter of Hospitals for the Public

The City Hospital, the Largest of These Institutions, Is Badly in Need of Improvement...Protestant Deaconess Hospital and St. Vincent's Infirmary Will a Want...Proposed Methodist Hospital Will Greatly Help...Condition of the Institutions

INDIANAPOLIS is very poorly equipped so far as public hospitals are concerned. Prominent physicians say that probably there is no city in the United States which boasts of 200,000 inhabitants that is as badly off when it comes to taking care of the sick as this city. There are only three public hospitals—the City Hospital, St. Vincent's Infirmary and the Protestant Deaconess Hospital. In a year or so, however, there will be another large hospital erected and ready for receiving patients—the Methodist Episcopal. The building has not yet been commenced.

The three hospitals that are now receiving patients in this city can accommodate 350 persons. This, however, puts them at their greatest capacity and in fact over-crowds them. At present every hospital in the city is overtaxed to accommodate the sick and this overcrowded condition has existed ever since last January. Those in charge of the hospitals say this condition is due to the fact that Indianapolis has grown so rapidly in the last year or so; and, of course, as the number of inhabitants increases the demand for hospital accommodations becomes greater.

As it is now there are not enough hospitals here to accommodate those who apply for admittance, say the physicians, and because of this condition the situation is

compelled to bathe in the same tubs. It is the intention of the superintendent to stop this, so that each class of patients may have their own bath rooms and not come in contact with each other.

There has been a great amount of controversy lately about the condition of the City Hospital and to fully realize this a person has simply to visit the institution and see for himself. It is not necessary for anyone to go around with the visitor and point out to him the defects in the buildings as the floors in the kitchens are rotting away and the plastering falling down; and it is an actual fact that some of the chimneys are tumbling down and the roof in several places is so worn out that whenever it rains water comes through and seeps into the corridors and wards.

The first building of the City Hospital was constructed in 1834 and it was in this part that the main offices were located until late last fall, when they were moved into what is known as the new part, which is on Locke street. While this part was built three or four years ago it has only recently been occupied. The building was erected during Mayor Taggart's last administration and besides being occupied by the general officers there are the attendants' quarters and a few rooms for patients.

All of the plumbing at the City Hospital is in such bad condition that it is consid-

ered very unsanitary and physicians are unanimous in declaring that it should all come out and be replaced by new.

There have been no improvements made at the hospital since 1892, when the place was painted. Since then not a thing has been done with the exception of erecting the new building and consequently almost everything about the place is worn out and needs replacing.

**MORGUE UNDER THE KITCHEN.** One of the worst places about the City Hospital is the morgue, which is situated directly under the kitchen. This place is old and dilapidated and has an exceedingly gruesome appearance. The plastering has fallen from the walls in patches, leaving the laths exposed. The morgue is very dark and has no proper accommodation and with the stretcher in the middle of the floor, upon which the dead are laid, leaves anything but a fascinating impression upon one's mind.

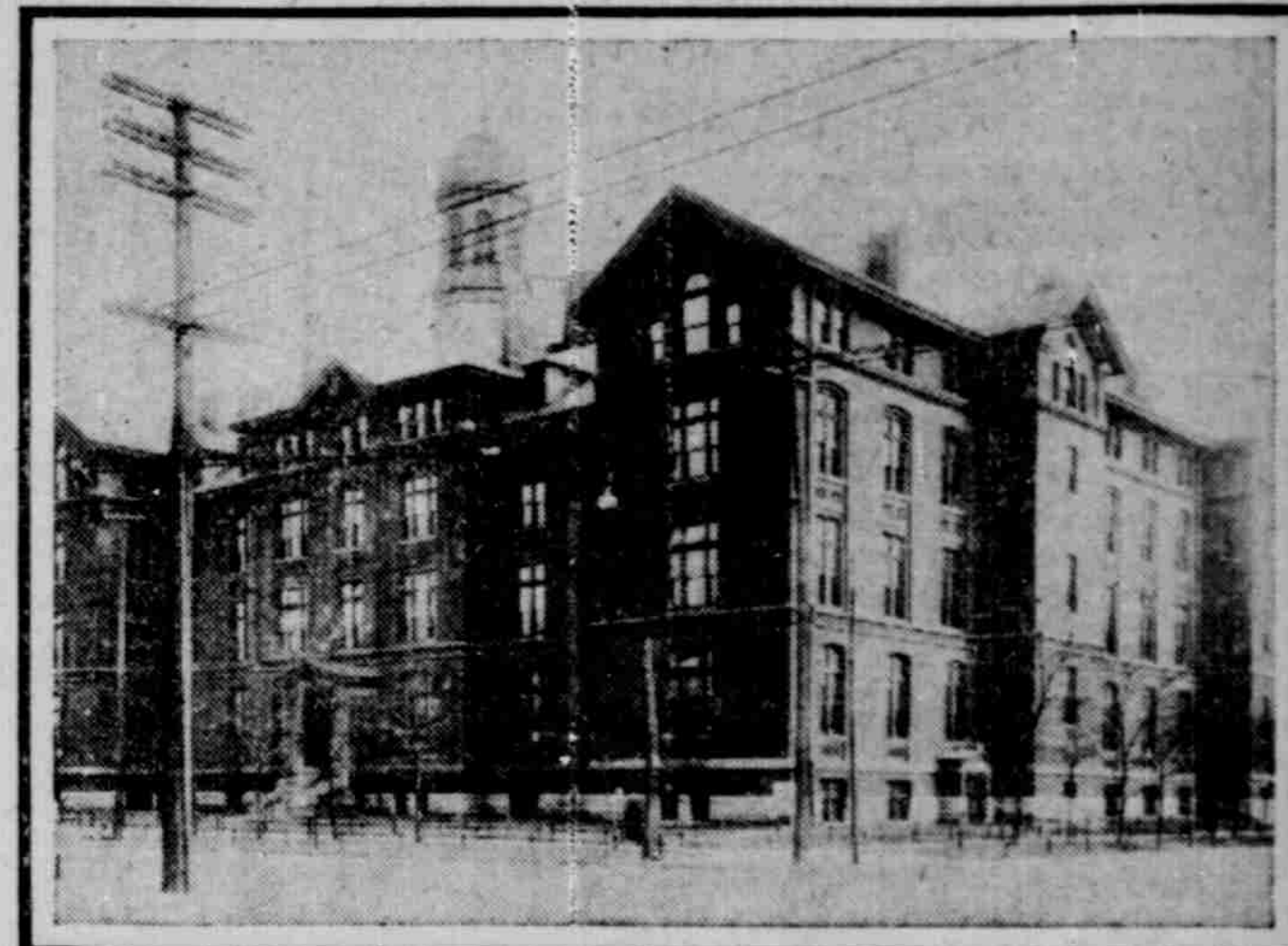
Another feature which the physicians of the city, as well as the authorities at the hospital, are complaining of is the old tumble-down cottage on Reimann street in which the patients suffering from contagious diseases are confined. This building is unsanitary in every particular, and should be replaced with a contagious disease pavilion fitted with all modern conveniences, it is said.

It is contended that the cottage, which was formerly used as the pesthouse, could be cleaned and thoroughly renovated, so that there would be no danger from smallpox, and could easily be transformed into the contagious disease pavilion. It is not situated too far from the hospital, and is much larger and in better condition than the building which is used at the present time.

To remodel the hospital the Health Board contends will cost \$24,572, although it has asked the Council to appropriate but \$20,000. The board thinks it will have no trouble in getting this amount, as the majority of city officials now realize that the institution is in very bad shape and needs repairing. However, some of the officials have made serious objections against repairing the institution, but physicians about the city say that if they had acquainted themselves with the conditions as they really exist at the hospital they would surely not have put forth such vigorous objections. It is desired to get the money as soon as possible and commence the work at once.

Connected with the City Hospital is the Flower Mission Hospital for incurable consumptives. This is practically a ward in the institution, which was built by subscriptions raised by the Flower Mission. It, however, occupies a separate building, located in the northern part of the hospital grounds. There have been quite a number of patients admitted since the hospital was opened last fall, and the results which have been derived from the work are very flattering to those who manage the institution.

Another part of the City Hospital which greatly needs improvement is the grounds. Situated, as the institution is, in a part of the city where no natural advantages are to be had, it is a difficult matter to improve the surroundings, although they



St. Vincent's Infirmary

could be put in better condition than they are at the present time.

**BOTH BETTER EQUIPPED.**

The best hospitals in the city are conducted by the Catholics and the Protestant Deaconess Society. These two institutions, while not as large as the City Hospital, are both equipped with all modern conveniences and have excellent ventilation and light.

St. Vincent's Infirmary is the largest of these two hospitals, and is located at the corner of South and Delaware streets. It has room to accommodate about 125 patients comfortably, and if necessary a few more can be taken care of. One of the sisters explained the capacity of the institution by saying that it depended greatly on how many people applied for admittance, and that they always disliked to turn any body away, but of late the hospital had been taxed to its fullest capacity.

Last year St. Vincent's had a very busy and prosperous year, and from the present indications the next twelve months will bring forth the same results. The institution, which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity, has been steadily growing in popularity ever since it was established. There are many emergency cases taken there, and the hospital is open to receive them day and night.

The building occupied by St. Vincent's Hospital is four stories high and fronts on South street. It is hygienic and sanitary, and is lighted by artificial gas and electricity and is heated by steam, which gives the uniform temperature so necessary in a hospital. There is excellent ventilation in all parts of the building.

Ventilation in this building is arranged by numerous air shafts located in all parts of the structure. Each of these shafts has a gas jet at the bottom, which creates the current of air that circulates through the openings. The sanitary conditions here are excellent, and there are enough exits and fire escapes, as was demonstrated some time ago when the building caught fire, for everyone to get out without loss of life or serious results.

At St. Vincent's Hospital charity patients are received. These patients form about one-fourth of all that are admitted to the institution. The care administered to them is of the very best because there are numerous trained nurses and many of the most prominent physicians in the city are connected with the medical staff of the hospital.

One thing that St. Vincent's Infirmary lacks is a contagious disease pavilion, and consequently the institution is unable to accept patients suffering from contagious diseases. However, it is said by those who have charge of the hospital that this will be the next thing added to the place, as the demand for such a ward is constantly increasing and the want of it is continually felt.

The last permanent improvements were made at this institution in 1900, when a new addition to the east wing was built, which is similar architecturally to the main building. At that time another boiler of seventy-five horse power was added which now gives a bountiful supply of sterilized hot and cold water throughout the entire building. The remaining portion in this new addition was fitted with modern apparatus and machinery for the new laundry and drying room.

There are maintained at this institution two college wards, one for medical and the other for surgical cases. One medical college in the city conducts this department, and it is the largest clinic for bedside instruction in the city. Small sections of the class from the college meet each morning in charge of an instructor, and half of the week is devoted to surgical work and the other half to medical cases.

By reason of the fact that the City Hospital confines its work to the people of the city, it is not able to receive patients from other parts of the State, and they come here from all parts of Indiana to be treated and operated upon.

**THE DEACONESS HOSPITAL.** The Protestant Deaconess Hospital is the youngest in the city, having been erected in 1888. It is located at the corner of Senate avenue and Ohio street, and occupies a building three stories high which is modern in every respect. This hospital has room to accommodate seventy-five patients.

The Deaconess Hospital, like the others,

receives charity patients. During last year in all there were 738 persons treated at the institution, and of these seventy were charity patients. There are many patients who are what is known as half-charity—that is, they pay whatever they can for their care while sick.

This hospital was built by the organization of Deaconesses which was formed here in 1882 from the four Protestant German congregations of the city from subscriptions raised by these people. The lot on which the building stands is 200 feet deep and is owned by the organization. At the present time two other buildings are on this lot besides the hospital. One of these is the frame dwelling which stands to the north and which was formerly used as the hospital, but is now occupied by the nurses as a dwelling. At the west end of the lot is another dwelling house.

It is the intention of the Deaconesses in the future to extend the hospital building, making it cover the entire lot. When this is done it will be one of the largest hospitals in the city. The two frame dwellings now standing will be torn down, and the new buildings will be built after the same style as the present one.

The Deaconess Hospital as it now stands cost \$15,000, and there is yet a debt of \$1,000 against the building. However, the institution has now reached the point where it is self-sustaining, and last year the indebtedness was reduced \$5,000. It is said from the present indications that this year the institution will do better than this, and will make a still greater reduction in the debt.

In this hospital there are a number of private rooms, which are rented by those who have to undergo operations or who are suffering from ailments of various kinds. In these rooms everything is made as homelike as possible for the patients. In fact, they have none of the appearance of being connected with a hospital, and remind one more of a sitting room at his home.

This hospital has its own electric light plant, which generates all the power used in the building. There are also used two 110-horse-power boilers to furnish heat and steam for the institution. One of the most interesting places about this hospital is the laundry, which is fitted with all the modern conveniences that first-class laundries have, such as all kinds of drying machines, as well as irons heated by electricity.

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The largest hospital in the city will be that which the Methodist Deaconesses will commence building this fall on the lot at the corner of Capitol avenue and Sixteenth street, which is widely known as the old baseball park.

This hospital is not all to be built at one time, for the organization has not the money, but the largest building will be put up first and will cost about \$100,000. The hospital, when completed, will cost about \$200,000, and on account of the large amount of ground that can be had the buildings will be erected on the pavilion style, which plan is the only proper way to build hospitals.

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This hospital will be three stories high and thoroughly fireproof. On the north end of the lot will be built the nurses' home, which will be used as living quarters by them. The hospital buildings will be set far enough back on the lot to give a beautiful expanse of lawn in front, which will be graded and made very pretty.

The officers of the board which has the construction of this institution under its management are C. E. Bacon, president; W. R. Halstead, corresponding secretary; George M. Smith, recording secretary, and W. D. Cooper, treasurer.

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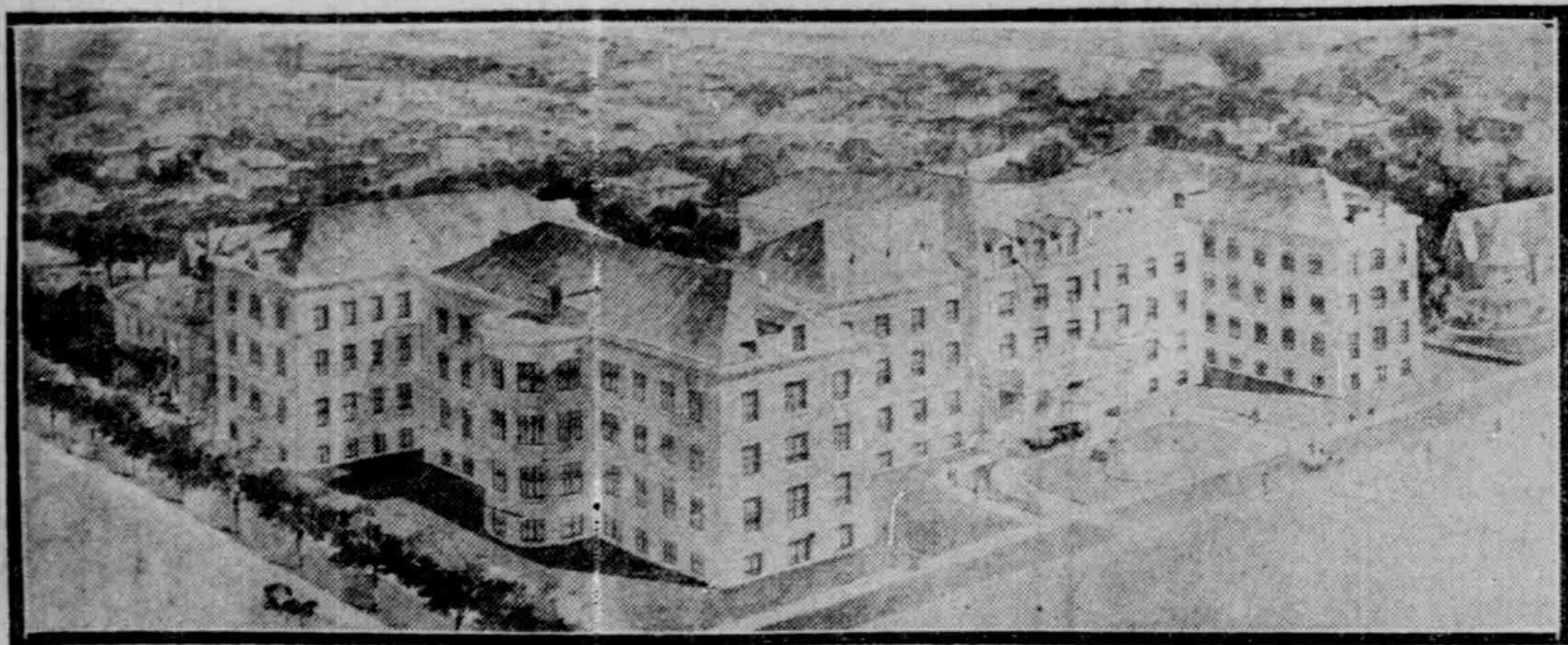
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Proposed Methodist Deaconess Hospital

## Juvenile Court of Indianapolis Designed to Reform Boys and Girls

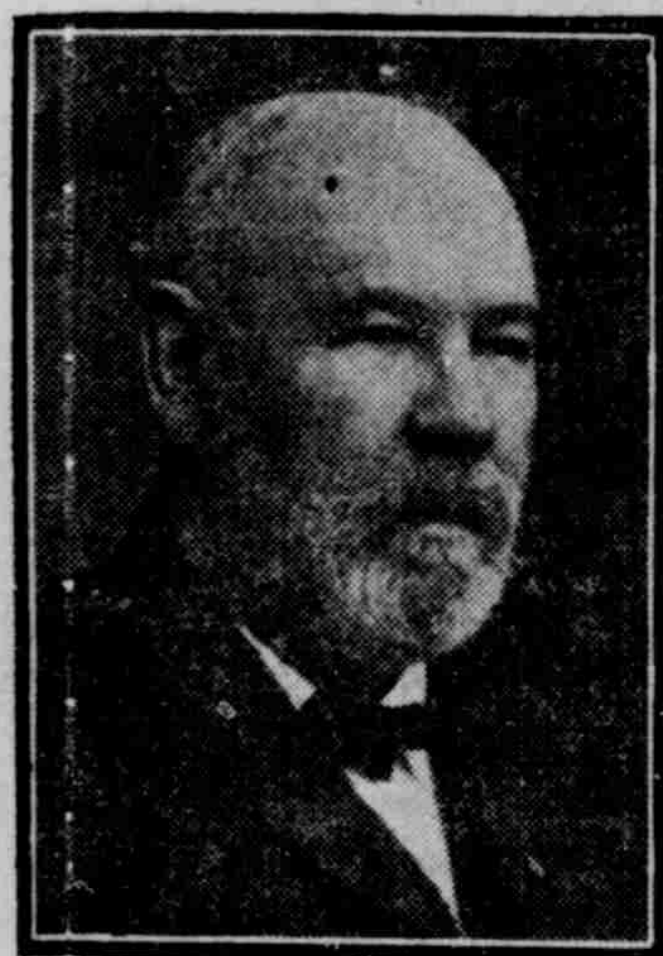
Established Little More Than One Year Ago It Is Yet to Some Extent in the Experimental Stage...Work Being Accomplished

HERE is not a more interesting place in the city to visit, if one is interested in reform, than the Juvenile Court, which is situated on the third floor of the courthouse. A work of reform is being carried on every day that in the majority of cases is successful, for dealing with children is quite different from trying to make a hardened criminal change his mode of life. In most instances it has been found in this court if the child is appealed to in the right manner, he is susceptible to good influences, while a grown person is seldom prevailed upon to change his ways.

The Juvenile Court has only been in existence a little over a year, having been organized a year ago last April. While the work so far has been very successful, it is contended that the court as yet is largely an experiment, as it takes several years to establish a tribunal of this kind and make a thorough success of it, since there are obstacles arising at all times, which, if one is not thoroughly acquainted with the work, will greatly handicap the judge.

The agitation for the establishment of a special court in this city for the hearing of charges against children grew out of the conditions found to exist in the Police Court when Judge Stubbs went into office in October, 1901.

More children under the age of sixteen years were brought into that court charged with violations of the law during the first thirty days, from Oct. 12 to Nov. 12, than



Judge Stubbs of Juvenile Court

Lab-r Institute, in Wabash county, and seven to other private schools and institutions in this State.

Of the depraved and incorrigible girls, forty-one in number, twenty have been sent to the Indiana Industrial School for Girls, and of the others twenty-one have been placed in other schools and institutions, making a total of seventy-three boys and girls placed in the two State institutions, and eighty-one boys sent to the other institutions throughout the State.

Seven of the eighty-one children sent to these institutions by the court are self-supporting, and are having all of their expenses paid by their parents under the order of the court. It is the rule to require the parents or guardians to bear all such

Mrs. Helen M. Rogers, the Probation Officer, Has a Woman Assistant...Men and Women of the City Lend Their Aid Freely in the Work

helping the court in every possible way to look after unfortunate children. Of the total number of officers enrolled so far, only eighty have had children under their charge, and at the present time fifty-one are looking after the wards of the court. However, all of the officers are greatly interested in their work, and each one is anxious for his turn to come to have a child under his charge.

The probation officers are among the best people of the city, both men and women. Many of them are business men of high standing, and also a number of clergymen and professional men have enlisted and are actively engaged in the work. In fact, the majority of men who have taken up this probation work are men of affairs who have very little time of their own, but they are willing to give up a portion of each day to the boys under their charge; and in this way the boy or girl who has committed an offense is made to feel that there is some hope for them and that they are at least considered. This awakens the spark of pride which has been found to exist in the majority of children.

Those connected with the court say that the work of these voluntary probation officers cannot be too highly commended. Out of 240 children placed on probation, fewer than twenty-five have been brought into court again charged with offending the law. The beneficial feature of the probation system can be seen when it is realized that nearly 250 children who have been guilty of some grievous offense are being reformed and cared for without any expense to the State or county.

But notwithstanding the great saving in cost by the judicious application of the probation system, the best effect is seen in the children themselves. The work of the probation officers has proven so beneficial with the boys and girls committed to their care by the court that in January of this year the officials of the court arranged with the board of managers of the Indiana Boys' School that all boys thereafter paroled from that institution belonging to this county be brought into the Juvenile Court by the superintendent and turned over to the court for supervision.

The court has agreed to place these paroled boys under the charge of probation officers and to find employment and decent boarding places for them. A large number of manufacturing concerns have promised to take the boys, and where they prove themselves worthy they soon work up into good positions.

There are four officers connected with the court besides the judge. Two probation officers are on pay, Mrs. Helen M. Rogers, chief probation officer, and Miss Clara Burnside, assistant probation officer. It is the duty of these women when a boy is arrested to secure all information pertaining to his past life, both at home and at school. This is laid before the judge, so when the case comes up he will know just what kind of a boy he is dealing with.

**ADAMABLY FITTED.** Both of these women are admirably fitted for the places they fill. They have great ability for the execution of the work in which they are engaged, and take an active interest in it. They both had considerable experience in charity work of various kinds before taking up the duties of probation officers, and they have always been very successful in all their undertakings.